(c) and (d) Since Non-formal pre-school education for children in the age group of 3-6 years is one of the components of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme of this Department, it has been decided to phase out the Early Childhood Education Programme to avoid duplication with the ICDS.

Train service between Bhubaneswar- Kanya Kumari and Bhubaneswar- Howrah

1642. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to introduce train service between Bhubaneswar and Kanya Kumari;

(b) whether a demand has also been made by Government of Orissa to introduce one train in the morning between Bhubaneswar and Howrah in view of the rush in all the Howrah-bound trains; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to consider these two demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 11 pairs of Mail/Express trains are by and large adequately catering to the traffic offering between Bhubaneswar and Howrah. Introduction of a train between Bhubaneswar to Howrah/Kanya Kumari is presently not feasible due to operational and resource constraints. However, the Kanya Kumari bound passengers of Bhubaneswar can avail of changeover at Chennai.

University Education in Andhra Pradesh

1643. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has examined the need for more University education in States like Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when was this study done;

(c) whether this study was ever discussed in appropriate forum; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

University Education in Rural Areas

1644. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any concrete programme to meet the requirement of University education for rural people;

(b) whether Government are aware of the need for University education for more people in rural areas; and

(c) the alternatives or avenues Government are examining to make university education available over a wider rural area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Government is aware and conscious of the need of higher education for people in rural areas. The policy relating to extension of Distance Education System, both through open and conventional universities; setting up of a National Council of Rural Institutes; and provision of non-collegiate educational system are the initiatives introduced to meet the aspirations of all to receive tertiary education.

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, ऋषिकेश में अनियमितताएं

1645. श्री शिव चरण सिंह: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, ऋषिकेश में पिछले सत्र के दौरान प्रवेश में की गई कई अनियमितताओं संबंधी अनेक आरोप ध्यान में लाए गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या कोई प्राथमिक तथ्यान्वेषी जांच की गई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या इसके लिये उत्तरदायी पाये गये प्रधानाचार्य के विरूद्ध कोई कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुंही राम सैकिया): (क) और (ख) प्रभारी प्रधानाचार्य और प्रवर श्रेणी लिपिक, केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, आई.डी.पी.एल. ऋषिकेश के विरूद्ध कुछ शिकायतें 1995-96 के दौरान प्राप्त हुई थी जिसमें दाखिलों, फर्नीचर की खरीद आदि में अनियमितताएं बरतने के आरोप लगाए गए हैं।

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रारंभिक जांच के परिणामों के आधार पर प्रभारी प्रधानाचार्य सहित दो कर्मचारियों को स्थानान्तरित कर दिया गया है। उनके विरूद्ध अनुशासनिक कार्रवाई करने के आदेश भी जारी कर दिए गए हैं।

Surplus workforce in Railways

1646. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have made any study regarding its surplus workforce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to utilise the surplus workforce gainfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) A diagnostic study on Manpower for Indian Railways was conducted in 1990. Among the important findings of the Study are that there is a need to do manpower planning to provide the necessary projections and profiles of staff in order to have a rational recruitment and training policy for improving the productivity of staff. The study also identifies redundancies due to modernisation and changes in the system of working and envisages redeployment of surplus staff for new activities or expanding activity centres and cost control.

(c) The staff rendered surplus due to closure of redundant activities and upgradation in the technology are redeployed to new activity centres after giving them training, wherever necessary. The redeployment of surplus staff is given the highest priority and their absorption has precedence over all other mode of recruitments.

Silting of Loktak Lake

1647. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the silting of one of the largest lakes of India i.e. Loktak in Manipur;

(b) if so, whether it has affected the production of power from that lake; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the reports of the State Govemment of Manipur, Loktak Lake is experiencing accummulation of silt due to various reasons.

(b) Siltation of the Loktak Lake has not affected the power generation from the project so far.

(c) Loktak Lake is one of the 18 wetlands selected for intensive conservation and management under the Wetland Programme. Under this programme the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has provided an amount of Rs. 154.15 lakhs to the State Govemment of Manipur for lake conservation and management activities. These activities include survey and demarcation, afforestation, plantation of horticultural crops, control of water hyacinth, removal of phumdis and generating awareness. In addition, the State Govemment has taken up conservation and development activities in Loktak Lake area through State Plan funds. North Eastern Council grants and special grants received through the Ninth Finance Commission Award. The 10th Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 30 crores for the "Maintenance and Preservation of Loktak Lake". The Govemment of Manipur has in this regard prepared an action plan which includes activities like desiltation of lake and its feeding channels, control of phumdis and catchment area treatment